AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

at a computer processor, receiving a plurality of bets, each bet comprising:

a selection of a first number of events selected from a group of events;

a selection of a respective participant for each of the first number of events selected; and

a bet amount;

wherein at least one selected event of a first bet of the plurality of bets comprises a different event from ~~the events~~ <u>the events</u> ~~at least one~~ selected <u>to form</u> ~~event of~~ a second bet of the plurality of bets;

combining the amounts of the bets of the plurality to form a betting pool; and

at a computer processor, determining an amount of a payout for winning bets of the plurality based at least in part on the amount of the bets in the betting pool.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for each event of the group of events; and

determining one or more winning bets of the plurality of bets based at least in part on the results.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the bet of the plurality of bets includes a winning participant of a specified event.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the bet amount is at least as high as a specified amount.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the selected respective participants of the bet comprise participants having specified odds.

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning participant of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on the relative odds among the winning participants of the winning bets in the pool.

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning participant of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on the relative amount bet on the events in the pool.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein determining an amount to be paid for each winning bet is further based on the odds of the selected respective participants of each winning bet.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for only the bets on the same event as the first winning bet based at least in part on the first winning bet's selected respective participants for each of the first number of events selected each had specified odds.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning participant of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on selection of the first winning bets' event for a bonus, selection being known to bettors while bets are received

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning participant of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part selection of the first winning bets' event for a bonus, selection occurring after bets are received

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein determining an amount of a total payout based at least in part on the betting pool comprises adding to the betting pool a carryover amount from a previous betting pool.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for each event of the group of events;

determining whether there are any winning bets based at least in part on determining for each of the plurality of bets if each selected respective participant corresponds to the winning participant for each of the first number of events selected in the bet; and

determining a carryover amount to carry over to a future total payout if there are no winning bets.

15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

canceling at least one event of the group of events;

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for at least one event of the group of events; and

determining one or more winning bets by determining for each of the plurality of bets if at least one of the selected respective participants corresponds to the winning participant for at least one of the first number of events selected in the bet.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first number of events comprise horse racing events held at different tracks.

17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the first number of events comprise events held on different days.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first number of events comprise two or more events selected from events from the group consisting of horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic or other sporting events.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the first number of events comprise at least one horse racing event and at least one football event.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the first number of events comprise at least one football event and at least one basketball event.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the first number of events comprise:

a first event selected from events from the group consisting of a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

a second event selected from events from the group consisting of a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

wherein the first event and the second event comprise different types of events.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising stipulating an adjustment parameter that provides a bonus to the plurality of bets upon satisfaction of the adjustment parameter.

23. (Currently amended) A system for managing bets, comprising:

a tangible computer storage memory and processor designed to store and operate on a plurality of bets, each bet comprising:

a selection of a first number of events selected from a group of events;

a selection of a respective participant for each of the first number of events selected; and

a bet amount;

wherein at least one selected event of a first bet of the plurality of bets comprises a different event from the ~~at least one~~ selected event~~s~~ of a second bet of the plurality of bets;

the processor operable to:

combine bets, including at least the first and second bets ~~each bet amount~~ to form a betting pool; and

determine an amount of a total payout based at least in part on the betting pool.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the bet of the plurality of bets includes a winning participant of a specified event.

27. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the bet amount is at least as high as a specified amount.

28. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective participants correspond to a winning participant for each of the first number of events selected and the selected respective participants of the bet comprise participants having specified odds.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operable to determine an amount to be paid for each winning bet further based on the odds of the selected respective participants of each winning bet.

32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operable to increase a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets if the first winning bet's selected respective participants for each of the first number of events selected each had specified odds.

33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operable to increase a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets if at least one of the first winning bet's selected events comprises a specified event.

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein a processor operable to determining an amount of a total payout based at least in part on the betting pool comprises a processor operable to add to the betting pool a carryover amount from a previous betting pool.

36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is further operable to:

receive results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for each event of the group of events;

determine whether there are any winning bets by determining for each of the plurality of bets if each selected respective participant corresponds to the winning participant for each of the first number of events selected in the bet; and

determine a carryover amount to carry over to a future total payout if there are no winning bets.

37. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is further operable to:

cancel at least one event of the group of events;

receive results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for at least one event of the group of events; and

determine one or more winning bets by determining for each of the plurality of bets if at least one of the selected respective participants corresponds to the winning participant for at least one of the first number of events selected in the bet.

38. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise horse racing events held at different tracks.

39. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise events held on different days.

40. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise one or more horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic or other sporting events.

41. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise at least one horse racing event and at least one football event.

42. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise at least one football event and at least one basketball event.

43. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the first number of events comprise:

a first event comprising a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

a second event comprising a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

wherein the first event and the second event comprise different types of events.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the processor is operable to communicate an adjustment parameter that provides a bonus to the plurality of bets upon satisfaction of the adjustment parameter.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning participant for each event of the group of events;

determining one or more winning bets of the plurality of bets by determining for each of the plurality of bets if each selected respective participant corresponds to the winning participant for each of the first number of events selected in the bet;

determining an amount to be paid for a winning bet of the one or more winning bets based on the number of winning bets, the amount of the total payout and the bet amount of the winning bet of the one or more winning bets.

46. (Original) The method of claim 45, further comprising paying a bonus from the amount of the total payout if the winning bet of the one or more winning bets comprises a winning participant of a specified event.

47. (Original) The method of claim 45, further comprising paying a bonus from the amount of the total payout if at least some of the selected respective participants for each of the first number of events selected of the winning bet of the one or more winning bets had specified odds.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the first number of events comprise horse racing events held at different tracks.

50. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the first number of events comprise at least one football event and at least one of the following types of events: horse racing, dog racing, basketball, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic or other sporting events.

51. (Original) The method of claim 45, wherein the first number of events comprise:

a first event comprising a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

a second event comprising a horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; wherein the first event and the second event are different types of events.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, further comprising the step of:

stipulating an adjustment parameter that provides a bonus to the plurality of bets upon satisfaction of the adjustment parameter.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events; and

determining one or more winning bets of the plurality of bets based on the results.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one selected event of the first bet comprising a different event from the at least one selected event of the second bet comprises a different type of event from the at least one selected event of the second bet.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the at least one selected event of the first bet comprising a different event from the at least one selected event of the second bet comprises a different type of event from the at least one selected event of the second bet.

56. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

at a computer processor, receiving a first bet comprising:

a first selected number of events, the first selected number of events comprising at least a first event;

a selection of a respective participant for each of the first selected number of events; and

a first bet amount;

at the computer processor, receiving a second bet comprising:

a second selected number of events, the second selected number of events comprising at least a second event different from the <u>events in the</u> first <u>selected number of</u> event<u>s</u>;

a selection of a respective participant for each of the second selected number of events; and

a second bet amount; and

at the computer processor, determining an amount of a total payout based at least in part on an amount of a betting pool formed by combining the first bet amount and the second bet amount.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the second event different from the first event comprises an event of a different type than the first event.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, wherein the first selected number of events comprises a different number of events than the second selected number of events.

59. (Currently amended) A method, comprising the steps of:

at a computer entry device, accepting from a user a bet that selects an event and outcome of the event on which to bet; and

forwarding the bet for assembly of a plurality of bets from a plurality of users into a betting pool, each bet in the plurality including a designation of an event and an amount, the plurality of bets in the betting pool including bets on a plurality of distinct events <u>that differ among the bets in the pool</u>, the betting pool to be processed by a processor to determine a payout for winning bets of the plurality based the outcomes of at least two events designated by bets in the betting pool.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning outcome for each event of the group of events; and

determining one or more winning bets of the plurality of bets based at least in part on the results.

61. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective outcomes correspond to a winning outcome for each of the first number of events selected and the bet of the plurality of bets includes a winning outcome of a specified event.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective outcomes correspond to a winning outcome for each of the first number of events selected and the bet amount is at least as high as a specified amount.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein:

a rule for determining a payout to a winning bet is based at least in part on whether at least some of the selected respective outcomes correspond to a winning outcome for each of the first number of events selected and the selected respective outcomes of the bet comprise outcomes having specified odds.

64. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning outcome of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on the relative odds among the winning outcomes of the winning bets in the pool.

65. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning outcome of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on the relative amount bet on the events in the pool.

66. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for only the bets on the same event as the first winning bet based at least in part on the first winning bet's selected respective outcomes for each of the first number of events selected each had specified odds.

67. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning outcome of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part on selection of the first winning bets' event for a bonus, selection being known to bettors while bets are received

68. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, further comprising the step of:

increasing a payout for a first winning bet of the one or more winning bets relative to a pari-mutuel payout for the winning outcome of the event of the first winning bet, the increase being based at least in part selection of the first winning bets' event for a bonus, selection occurring after bets are received.

69. (Previously presented) The method of claim 60, wherein determining an amount to be paid for each winning bet is further based on the odds of the selected respective outcomes of each winning bet.

70. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein determining an amount of a total payout based at least in part on the betting pool comprises adding to the betting pool a carryover amount from a previous betting pool.

71. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the steps of:

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning outcome for each event of the group of events;

determining whether there are any winning bets based at least in part on determining for each of the plurality of bets if each selected respective outcome corresponds to the winning outcome for each of the first number of events selected in the bet; and

determining a carryover amount to carry over to a future total payout if there are no winning bets.

72. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising the steps of:

canceling at least one event of the group of events;

receiving results of the group of events, the results identifying a winning outcome for at least one event of the group of events; and

determining one or more winning bets by determining for each of the plurality of bets if at least one of the selected respective outcomes corresponds to the winning outcome for at least one of the first number of events selected in the bet.

73. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first number of events comprise horse racing events held at different tracks.

74. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein the first number of events comprise events held on different days.

75. (Currently amended) The method of claim 59, wherein the events underlying bets in the pool comprise two or more event types ~~classes~~ selected from events from the group of types ~~classes~~ consisting of horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic or other sporting events.

76. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the events underlying bets in the pool comprise at least one horse racing event and at least one football event.

77. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein the events underlying bets in the pool comprise at least one football event and at least one basketball event.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 75, wherein events underlying bets in the pool comprise:

a first event selected from events from the group consisting of horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

a second event selected from events from the group consisting of horse racing, dog racing, basketball, football, baseball, hockey, soccer, jai-alai, golf, boxing, rugby, cricket, auto racing, bicycle racing, tennis, Olympic, political or entertainment event; and

wherein the first event and the second event comprise different types of events.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59, further comprising stipulating an adjustment parameter that provides a bonus to the plurality of bets upon satisfaction of the adjustment parameter.